

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15

RSC-01 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

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R 281555Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193437

E.O.:11652:GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE ISSUE AT UNGA

1. BRITISH EMBOFFS LING AND SAMUELS CALLED ON CEN TO BRING US UP TO DATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. THEY REPORTED THAT TWO MEETINGS HAD BEEN HELD BETWEEN SANCHEZ AND CONSUL WEYMES IN RECENT WEEKS. DURING FIRST, ON SEPTEMBER 1, WEYMES SENT IN TO AGAIN REQUEST OF GOG SOME FURTHER DETAILS OF ITS SECRET PLAN TO BE USED TO CONVINCE PRICE OF GUATEMALA SERIOUSNESS AND TO BE IN STRONGER POSITION TO INFLUENCE HIM NOT TO PUSH BELIZE ISSUE AT UNGA. SANCHEZ REPORTEDLY TOLD WEYMES THAT GOG COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY DETAILS BECAUSE OF FEAR THEY MIGHT BE LEAKED AND CAUSE DIFFICULTIES AT SENSITIVE JUNCTURE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. AT SECOND MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 26, INITIATED BY SANCHEZ, WEYMES WAS INFORMED THAT SPANISH DELEGATE TO UNGA OFFERED (TO ARENALES) TO ADD A PASSAGE ON BELIZE ISSUE TO
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SECTION OF HIS GA ADDRESS ATTACKING BRITISH GIBRALTAR

POSITION- ARENALES TURNED DOWN THE OFFER, AND ASKED SANCHEZ TO INFORM WEYMES.

3. ALSO, SOMETIME IN MID-SEPTEMBER, PRICE MET WITH SIR DUNCAN WATSON IN LONDON AND AIRED HIS LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GUATEMALANS COMING FORWARD IN MARCH, 1974 WITH A

SERIOUS PROPOSAL. PRICE SAID PAST DEALINGS WITH THE GUATEMALANS GAVE HIM LITTLE CAUSE FOR HOPE THAT THEY WOULD COME FORWARD WITH ANYTHING POSITIVE FOLLOWING ELECTIONS. HE WAS FEARFUL THAT THE GOG WAS SIMPLY BUYING TIME.

4. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING IN LONDON, PRICE RETURNED TO BELIZE AND DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THEN WENT ON TO JAMAICA TO TALK TO MANLEY AND THOMPSON.

5. THE EMBOFFS REMAIN SKEPTICAL THAT HMG EFFORTS TO CONVINCE PRICE TO PLAY IN LOW KEY AT THE UNGA HAVE REALLY HAD MUCH EFFECT, THOUGH THEIR DELEGATIONS SOUNDINGS IN NEW YORK INDICATE LITTLE INTEREST IN THE ISSUE. THEY VIEWED ARENALES REFUSAL OF THE SPANISH OFFER AS A POSITIVE SIGN WHICH THEY PROMISED TO RELAY TO PRICE. THE EMBOFFS ASKED WHETHER WE THOUGHT THE GUATEMALANS COULD BE CONVINCED TO DISCLOSE SOME DETAILS OF THEIR PLAN. CEN OFFICERS ASKED IN RESPONSE WHETHER SANCHEZ GAVE ANY REASON FOR NOT GIVING DETAILS OTHER THAN FEAR OF LEAKS. EMBOFFS RESPONDED THAT FEAR OF LEAKS WAS SUBSTANCE OF REFUSAL. CEN OFFICIALS OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS SOMEWHAT ODD IN THAT CONSIDERABLE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DRAFTS, TO SAY NOTHING OF SECRET MEETINGS, HAD OCCURRED IN PAST YEARS WITHOUT LEAKS. HOWEVER, WE DID NOT ENCOURAGE EMBOFFS TO FEEL OPTIMISTIC OVER POSSIBILITY THAT GOG MIGHT REVEAL SOME ASPECTS OF PLAN.

6. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT HMG WANTS TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION IT HAS LITTLE CONTROL OVER WHAT PRICE OR COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES RAISE OR PUSH AT THE UNGA. CONFIDENTIAL

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HMG APPEARS HOPEFULL THAT ISSUE WILL BE BURIED IN FOURTH COMMITTEE AS IN PAST YEARS, BUT DOES NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF RESOLUTION OR, AT LEAST, STRONG STATEMENTS IN SPEECHES OF COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN DELEGATES. HMG ALSO APPEARS HIGHLY SKEPTICAL OF GOG AND, LIKE PRICE, HAS UNEASY FEELING GOG IS PLAYING FOR TIME AT ITS EXPENSE. BECAUSE OF ITS UNEASINESS OVER GOG STANCE, WE STILL HAVE IMPRESSION THAT FOR TACTICAL REASONS, HMG IS NOT KEEPING

PRICE ON TOO SHORT A LEASH.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE193437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KISSINGER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973093/aaaaabry.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <05-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE ISSUE AT UNGA
TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK
To: GUATEMALA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005